



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,169	02/22/2005	Mohankumar Valiyambath Krishnan	SG 020021	7666
24737	7590	12/07/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,169

Applicant(s)

VALIYAMBATH KRISHNAN,
MOHANKUMAR

Examiner

Ismael Izaguirre

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/22/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary amendment

The examiner is appreciative of the preliminary amendment submitted 2/22/2005 placing the language of the claims in better condition for examination. The following is submitted for applicant's consideration:

SPECIFICATION

Headings

Applicant is asked to take note the preferred arrangement and headings directed to a specification: except for the title, each of the lettered items should preferably be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Cross-Reference to Related Application(s) (if any).
- (b) Background of the Invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention (or Technical Field).
 - 2. Description of the Related Art (or Background Information or Background Art)
- (c) Summary of the Invention (or Disclosure of Invention).
- (d) Brief Description of the Drawing(s).
- (e) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)
- (f) Claim(s).
- (g) Abstract of the Disclosure (or Abstract).

Providing the above would place the specification in accordance with the suggestions of those portions of MPEP §§ 601 or 608.01 concerning "proper headings".

Informalities

On page 3, line 13, "provided with an outlet 14" should be replaced by "provided with an outlet 15".

CLAIMS

Summary

Claim 1 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-5 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Burian, deceased et al. (4,616,122).

Burian et al. teach an electric steaming device comprising a facial sauna, which includes a housing 1 which encloses a steam generator 16 with a heated base. Heating means 15 are provided for heating the generator and producing steam, which exits through at least one steam outlet 6. A passageway is provided for passing water from a reservoir 22 to the steam generator. The water is pumped by a pump 23 and is sprayed into and onto the base by using a nozzle 132 (figure 12, for example). The water is converted into steam and is used for treating the skin of a persons face.

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Farrington et al. (5,345,703).

Farrington et al. teach an electric steaming device comprising a steam iron, which includes a housing 16 (figure 1, for example), which encloses a steam generator 32 with a heated base. Heating means 19 are provided for heating the generator and producing steam, which exits through at least one steam outlet 25. A passageway is provided for passing water from a reservoir 20 to the steam generator. The water is pumped by a pump 24 and is sprayed into and onto the base by using a nozzle (at 40), which produces a jet of water (from column 3, line 34). The water is converted into steam and is used for pressing an article using the soleplate of the iron.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrington et al. in view of Van der Meer (5,042,179), and over Burian et al. in view of Van der Meer '179.

Farrington et al. and Burian et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of these documents. Briefly,

Art Unit: 3765

Farrington et al. teach a steam iron including a steam generator and water being fed to the vaporization chamber in jet form. Burian et al. teach a facial sauna including a steam generator and water being fed to the vaporization chamber in jet form. In both cases the steam generation chamber is heated by a heating means for converting the water into steam. However, neither Farrington et al. nor Burian et al. suggest the heating means as comprising a thick film printed circuit.

Van der Meer teaches a steam iron having a vaporization chamber and water being fed to the chamber for producing steam. Further, a heating element 41 is provided at base portion of the vaporization chamber and another 21 is provided at the soleplate for heating the soleplate which contacts the article being ironed. The heating element is taught as being of a track pattern conducting film type (from column 5, lines 50-52, for example).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the heating means of Farrington et al. and the heating means of Burian et al. as including a heater formed of a thick film printed circuit. Providing such a heater would reduce the cost of casting the steam-generating chamber and reduce the weight of the steam generator. Providing a thick film printed circuit would speed up the heating of the generator since the energy used to produce steam is quickly localized in the track of the heating element on the generator.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Watkins illustrates a steam iron including water being fed to the

Art Unit: 3765

steam chamber through a spray burst steam tube. Valiyambath illustrates a steam iron and steamer arrangement. Stutzer and Hoefer et al. illustrate a steam iron including a spray device. Marvin et al. Illustrate water forced by a pump onto the steam generation chamber.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (571) 272-4983. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ismael Izaguirre
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3765